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PIC/JB-29/61

MASSIVE EXPLOSION SITE
POKROVSK-URAL'SKIY, USSR

The site of the reported 3.1 KT high explosives detonation on 25 March 1958 near Pokrovsk-Ural'skiy (60-09N 59-49E) has been identified on KEYHOLE photography of [REDACTED] (Figures 1 and 2). The reported purpose of the blast was to finish the cutting of a diversion channel for the Kolonga River which had been flooding an iron-ore mine. 1/ 2/ The photography reveals a large open channel extending southeastward approximately 5,700 feet from a bend in the Kolonga River about one nautical mile southwest of Pokrovsk-Ural'skiy. The widest section of the channel is approximately 300 feet. The small scale and quality of the photography preclude precise measurements, but the dimensions obtained are consistent with those given in the Soviet reports.

25X

According to the Soviet press, the 3.1 KT explosion on 25 March 1958 was the last of a series of three used to open the diversion channel. The first and second explosions (174 and 432 tons) were detonated in April and December 1957 and opened the channel for a distance of about 2,600 feet. 1/ The third explosion opened the channel for another 3,773 feet with a width of up to 328 feet at the top and a depth of about 80 feet. The charges for the last explosion were placed in 31 holes varying in depth from 33 to 50 feet. 3/ 4/

The quality of the photography precludes positive determination of whether or not the river has been diverted into the new channel.

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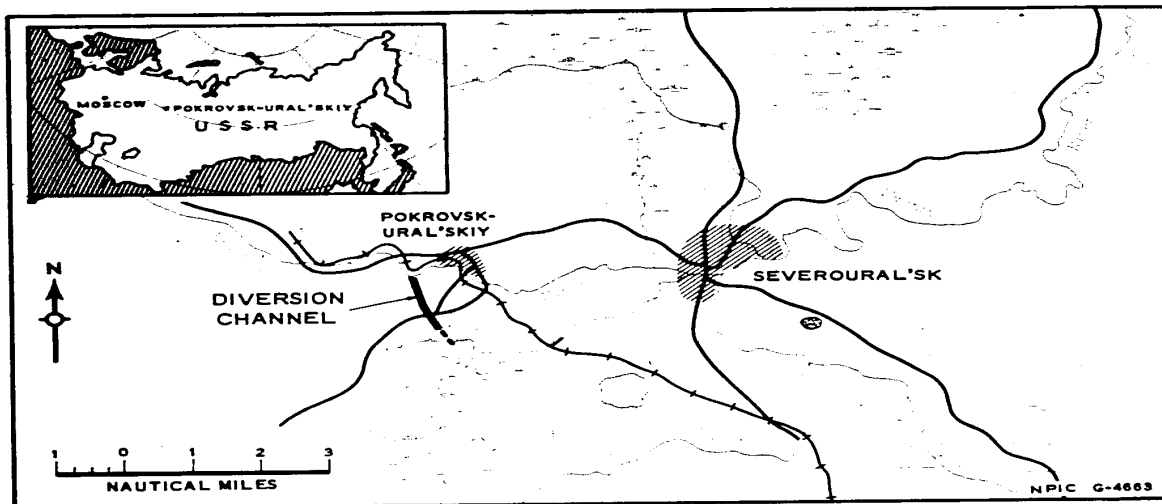


FIGURE 1. LOCATION OF NEW DIVERSION CHANNEL.

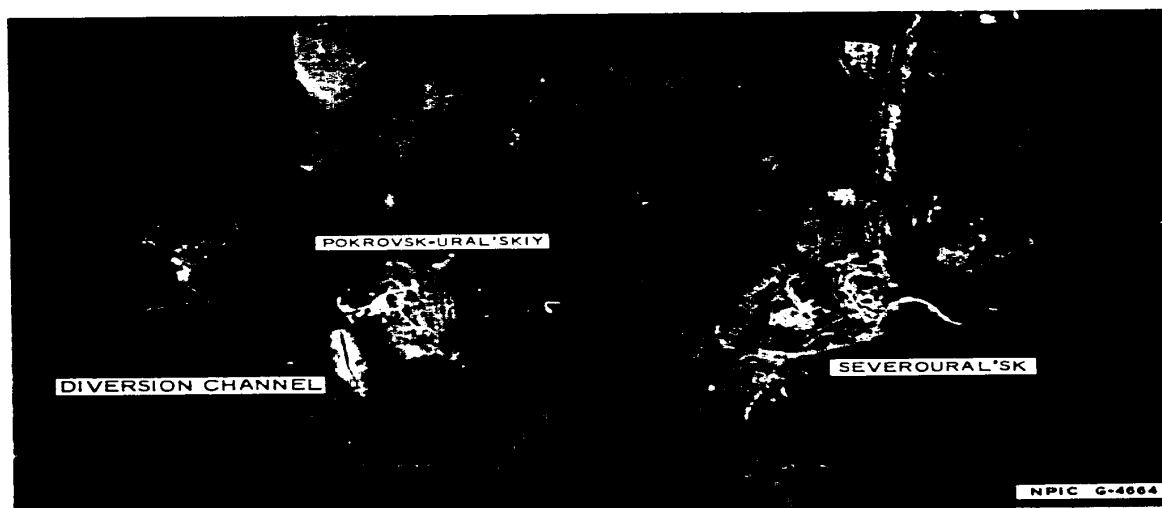


FIGURE 2. PHOTOGRAPH OF NEW DIVERSION CHANNEL. Date of photography [REDACTED]

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REFERENCES

PHOTOGRAPHY


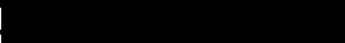
25X1D



MAPS and CHARTS

- SAC. US Air Target Chart, Series 200, Sheet 0100-22AL, 1st ed,
Sep 59. Scale 1:200,000 (C)
AMS. Series 1301, Sheet NP 39, 40, 5th ed, Sep 60. Scale
1:1,000,000 (U)

DOCUMENTS

1. The Current Digest of the Soviet Press, Vol X, No 12,
30 Apr 58 (U)
2. Doklady Akademii Nauk SSR, Vol 129, No 6, p 1283,
21 Dec 59 (U)
3. CIA. SI-42-58, 25 Nov 58 (S )
4. CIA. OSI-SR/61-20, 5 Jun 61 (S )

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